2025

AP® World History: Modern

Sample Student Responses and Scoring Commentary Set 1

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Short-Answer Question 1

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Question 1: Short Answer Secondary Source — 3 points

General Scoring Notes

- Each point is earned independently.
- **Accuracy:** These scoring guidelines require that students demonstrate historically defensible content knowledge. Given the timed nature of the exam, responses may contain errors that do not detract from their overall quality, as long as the historical content used to advance the argument is accurate.
- **Clarity:** Exam responses should be considered first drafts and thus may contain grammatical errors. Those errors will not be counted against a student unless they obscure the successful demonstration of the content knowledge, skills, and practices described below.
- **Describe:** Provide the relevant characteristics of a specified topic. Description requires more than simply mentioning an isolated term.
- **Explain:** Provide information about how or why a historical development or process occurs or how or why a relationship exists.

A Identify one claim that the author makes in the first paragraph about the effect of the discovery of the Americas on Africa. **1 point**

Examples of acceptable responses may include the following:

- The African gold markets were destroyed.
- It resulted in the decline of cities and empires in Africa.
- It caused the abandonment of ancient trade routes.

B Describe one economic change in the Americas that occurred as a result of the developments discussed in the second paragraph. **1 point**

Examples of acceptable responses may include the following:

- The plantation system in the Americas became widespread.
- The increased availability of enslaved labor from Africa further developed the pattern of triangular trade between Europe, Africa, and the Americas.
- The decrease in Indigenous labor in the Americas created a demand for an increased number of enslaved laborers from Africa.

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C	Explain one reason why "American Indians" "became victims of the discovery of America," as suggested by the author in the last sentence of the passage. **Examples of acceptable responses may include the following:** • The Columbian Exchange resulted in a high death rate for Native Americans due to the introduction of diseases originating in Afro-Eurasia. • With the arrival of the Spanish and the introduction of new labor systems, such as the encomienda and hacienda systems, Native American labor was exploited. • Native American tribes lost their ancestral homelands as European colonists took over land for economic gain. • Europeans often forced Christianization on Native Americans that resulted in the loss of cultural traditions.	**1 point**

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a) One claim is that Africa suffered because Europeans no longer needed the gold that they traded. This is because the European powers now had access to much more gold in the Americas, so it was no longer nesccesary to trade with Africa. As a result, Africa and especially the Trans-Saharan Route suffered because one of its main exports, Gold, was no longer profitable.

b) One economic change would be the focus on agricultural/cash crop production. The Americas were large and contained fertile land, with many natural resources. As a result, labor/slaves were needed for the many plantations and mining areas controlled by the Europeans, shown in paragraph 2.

c) The American Indians became victims due to the European's labor systems. Once the Europeans took over and defeated the Native Americans (such as the Aztecs) they forced the defated Indians in to labor, using systems such as the encomienda to force them to mine silver/gold or produce cash crops. Thus, the Indians became the European's "tool" of free labor, showing how the Native Americans became victims of the European's greed and conquest.

One claim that the author makes about the effect of the discovery of the Americas on Africa is that Africas gold market collapsed. The author talks about how the trading cities like Timbuktu were completely abandoned by merchants. This led to a decrease in trade across trans saharan trade routes. It also made empires like the Songhai weaker and more vunerable to european expansion.

One economic change in the Americas was that they were now the main supplier of food, goods, and metals to european empires. The author discusses how europeans moved away from the African supply of goods and moved towards the American supply of goods. This led to prospierity and mass immagration to America to provide these goods and products to european empires.

One reason American Indians became victims of the discovery of the Americas was because they were used as labor systems. For example the Spanish utilized the encomienda system in their American territories to put the native populations to work. This led to the native populations being used as slaves and therefore being "victims" of the discovery of America.

A) America had all the silver and gold Europe needed.
B) The Mediterranean trade of cloth, beads, leather, and metals was replaced with the slave trade.
C) American Indians became victims of the discovery of America because Europeans took their land.

Short Answer Question 1

Note: Student samples are quoted verbatim and may contain spelling and grammatical errors.

Overview

NEW for 2025: The question overviews can be found in the *Chief Reader Report on Student Responses* on AP Central.

Sample: 1A
SAQ Part A Score: 1
SAQ Part B Score: 1
SAQ Part C Score: 1

Total Score: 3

The response earned 1 point for Part A. The response identifies the claim that "Africa suffered because Europeans no longer needed the gold that they traded" as Europeans found new sources of gold in the Americas. Although the passage states that it was the European discovery of silver, not gold, in the Americas that "destroyed the African gold markets," the response's identification of the claim in the passage was accurate enough to earn the point.

The response earned 1 point for Part B because it describes "the focus on agricultural/cash crop production" using slave labor on "plantations and mining areas controlled by the Europeans."

The response earned 1 point for Part C because it explains that Native Americans were exploited for their labor as they were part of the encomienda system, showing "the European's greed and conquest."

Sample: 1B
SAQ Part A Score: 1
SAQ Part B Score: 0
SAQ Part C Score: 1

Total Score: 2

The response earned 1 point for Part A because it identifies "that Africas gold market collapsed" as a claim made by the author in the passage. The response also identifies other claims made in the passage, namely that there was a "decrease in trade across trans saharan trade routes" and that the Soghnai empire was weakened and made "more vunerable to european expansion."

The response did not earn the point for Part B. The response states that, after the European conquest, the Americas became "the main supplier of food, goods, and metals to european empires" but this statement is too sweeping and historically incorrect to earn the point.

The response earned 1 point for Part C because it explains that Native Americans were used in labor systems like the encomienda system. While the explanation is overly generalized and oversimplified (for example, in the claim that "the native populations [were] being used as slaves") the overall explanation that the Encomienda system "put the native populations to work" causing them to become victims of the European discovery of the Americas was sufficiently accurate to earn the point.

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Short Answer Question 1 (continued)

Sample: 1C
SAQ Part A Score: 0
SAQ Part B Score: 0
SAQ Part C Score: 1

Total Score: 1

The response did not earn the point for Part A. The response identifies that "America had all the silver and gold Europe needed" but that statement could not be credited as an effect on the African economy without also identifying the author's corollary statement that "this destroyed the African gold markets and the dependent trade networks."

The response did not earn the point for Part B because its discussion of Mediterranean trade does not describe an economic change that occurred in the Americas as a result of the historical developments outlined in the second paragraph of the document.

The response earned 1 point for Part C because it explains that Native Americans were victims of the discovery of America because "Europeans took their land." Although this is an oversimplified and poorly articulated explanation of the negative effects of the European discovery of the Americas on Native American societies, it was sufficient as a minimally successful example of earning the point.

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